

REMARKS

The amendment clarifies the geometry of the drive system according to the invention by reciting the clutch accommodated in the receiving space, and the electrical machine being both radially outside and radially aligned with the receiving space.

Claims 1-8, 11-14 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Heyden U.S. 6,388,348. To the extent that this reference would be applied against claims as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

The Examiner takes the position that the space between the bolts 30 of Heyden defines a receiving space, and that the clutch 26 is not only in this space but radially inward from the electrical machine (52, 58). However the space between the bolts 30 is not radially aligned with the electrical machine. It is this feature, which puts the receiving space accommodating the clutch component on a substantially common radius with the electrical machine, which gives the drive system according to applicants' invention a relatively compact structure.

Since it was clearly applicants' intent that the language "spaced radially inwards" referred to a common radius and not something axially distant, the amendment is not believed to present any new issue, wherefore entry is solicited.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable and is generic to the withdrawn claims, reinstatement of these claims and allowance of all claims is also solicited. If any objections remain, a call to the undersigned is requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be

charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By 

F. Brice Faller

Reg. No. 29,532

551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210

New York, New York 10176

(212) 687-2770

Dated: December 14, 2005